UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.6/1995/L.7
21 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Agenda item 5

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Azerbaijan*: draft resolution

Relief to women and children who have been taken as hostages and imprisoned in armed conflicts, to be provided by the beginning of the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Taking into consideration the fact that the main objective of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing, China, from 4 to 15 September 1995, is to promote the achievement of equality, development and peace,

Expressing grave concern that the number of armed conflicts has not decreased since the end of the cold war, and that international and ethnic conflicts are an ongoing reality in nearly every region, resulting in violations of human rights, especially those of women and children, including massive loss of life,

Noting with alarm that the humanitarian law prohibiting attacks on civilian populations is systematically ignored,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Confirming that the taking of women and children as hostages, and their imprisonment and subjection to torture and violence are in grave contravention of human morality and all international legal norms,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children by parties to conflicts will contribute greatly to achieving the above-mentioned goals of the Beijing Conference,

Noting that the implementation of this initiative would serve as strong confirmation of the effectiveness of the Conference's goal of action for equality, development and peace,

1. Strongly appeals to all parties concerned to strictly observe and respect the rules of international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 1/ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977; 2/

2. Appeals to the parties to conflicts to strive for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of their differences;

3. Urges all parties to conflicts to release all women and children who have been taken as hostages and imprisoned in areas of armed conflict, before the opening of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing, China, from 4 to 15 September 1995, and thereby carry out an action for peace and justice;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to use all appropriate measures to ensure that women and children who have been imprisoned as hostages in zones of armed conflict are released by the beginning of the Beijing Conference;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Fourth World Conference on Women on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

2/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.